

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Canceled)

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): [[The]] A protective tool [[(68A)]] for a therapeutic material delivery device comprising an outer needle having an outer tubular needle and an outer needle hub supporting the outer tubular needle, the protective tool being configured to be attached to said outer needle for the protection thereof,

the protective tool comprising a cover and a cap or stopper attached to a forward end of said cover for protecting the forward end of the outer tubular needle,

wherein said cover is formed of a plurality of tubes having different diameters that are formed so as to consecutively decrease from a forward place to the outer needle hub in a backward place, and said tubes are thereby connected such that the cover is extendable in the longitudinal direction as recited in claim 1,

wherein said cap [[(61)]] has an inner tube [[(61A)]] formed inside, said inner tube [[(61A)]] has, made in a bottom thereof, a hole [[(62)]] for inserting and passing said outer tubular needle [[(2A)]], and said inner tube [[(61A)]] has, formed in an outer circumference, a groove portion [[(63)]] for inserting a forward end of said outer tubular needle.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): [[The]] A protective tool [[(68B)]] for a therapeutic material delivery device comprising an outer needle having an outer tubular needle and an outer needle hub supporting the outer tubular needle, the protective tool being configured to be attached to said outer needle for the protection thereof,

the protective tool comprising a cover and a cap or stopper attached to a forward end of said cover for protecting the forward end of the outer tubular needle,

wherein said cover is formed of a plurality of tubes having different diameters that are formed so as to consecutively decrease from a forward place to the outer needle hub in a backward place, and said tubes are thereby connected such that the cover is extendable in the longitudinal direction as recited in claim 1,

wherein said stopper [(65)] is constituted of a tubular opening/closing portion [(66)] having a forward end and a connector portion [(70)],

said opening/closing portion [(66)] has slits [(71)] formed in the longitudinal direction, one in an upper portion and the other in a lower portion, said forward end has an opening portion [(66a)], and said connector portion [(70)] has pressing portions [(67)] formed, one on the right and the other on the left, and has cutout grooves [(69)] formed, one in an upper place and the other in a lower place.

Claim 4 (Canceled)

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): [[The]] A protective tool [(68A)] for a therapeutic material delivery device comprising an outer needle having an outer tubular needle and an outer needle hub supporting the outer tubular needle, a middle needle having a middle tubular needle and a middle needle hub supporting the middle tubular needle and an inner needle having a solid needle and an inner needle hub supporting the solid needle, the outer needle, the middle needle and the inner needle being to be connected for use, the protective tool being configured to be attached to said outer needle for the protection thereof,

which protective tool comprises a cover and a cap or a stopper that is attached to the forward end of said cover for protecting the forward end of said outer tubular needle,

wherein said cover is formed of a plurality of tubes having different diameters that are formed so as to consecutively decrease from a forward place to the outer needle hub in a backward place, and said tubes are thereby connected such that the cover is extendable in the longitudinal direction as recited claim 4,

wherein said cap [(61)] has an inner tube [(61A)] formed inside, said inner tube has, in a bottom thereof, a hole [(62)] for inserting and passing said outer tubular needle [(2A)], and said inner tube [(61A)] has, formed in an outer circumference thereof, a groove portion for inserting the forward end of said outer tubular needle [(2A)].

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): [[The]] A protective tool [(68B)] for a therapeutic material delivery device comprising an outer needle having an outer tubular needle and an outer needle hub supporting the outer tubular needle, a middle needle having a middle tubular needle and a middle needle hub supporting the middle tubular needle and an inner needle having a solid needle and an inner needle hub supporting the solid needle, the outer needle, the middle needle and the inner needle being configured to be connected for use, the protective tool being configured to be attached to said outer needle for the protection thereof,

which protective tool comprises a cover and a cap or a stopper that is attached to the forward end of said cover for protecting the forward end of said outer tubular needle,

wherein said cover is formed of a plurality of tubes having different diameters that are formed so as to consecutively decrease from a forward place to the outer needle hub in a backward place, and said tubes are thereby connected such that the cover is extendable in the longitudinal direction as recited in claim 4,

wherein said stopper [(65)] is constituted of a tubular opening/closing portion [(66)] having a forward end and a connector portion [(70)],

said opening/closing portion [(66)] has slits [(71)] formed in the longitudinal direction, one in an upper portion and the other in a lower portion, said forward end has an opening portion [(66a)], and said connector portion [(70)] has pressing portions [(67)] formed, one on the right and the other on the left, and has cutout grooves [(69)] formed, one in an upper place and the other in a lower place.

Claims 7-24 (Canceled)